

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

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COME-00 EB-11 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DLOS-06 L-03

SCI-06 HEW-08 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 NSF-04 PA-04 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNESCO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL CLIMATE UNESCO

REF: USUN 4973

1. UNESCO DELEGATION PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED EXCELLENT ANALYSIS
PRESENTED REFTEL AND WOULD LIKE TAKE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDE SOME THOUGHTS

RE SITUATION UNESCO. IN GENERAL SAME TRENDS INDICATED ARE AT WORK
IN UNESCO. AS UN ORGANIZATION WITH SECOND LARGEST MEMBERSHIP
(131) AND WITH A PARTICULARLY DIVERSE SCOPE OF AUTHORITY RANGING
FROM HUMAN RIGHTS TO COPYRIGHTS, UNESCO TENDS TO MIRROR MOST MAJOR
POLITICAL ISSUES RAISED AT UN. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME TRENDS
EVIDENT HERE WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST.

2. FIRST, GRANTING THE NEW SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY EVIDENT AMONG
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THE AFRO-ARABS A KEY ISSUE HERE SEEMS TO BE WHETHER THE US CAN

STILL COUNT ON THE WEST EUROPEANS FOR SUPPORT ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. IN THE UNESCO CONTEXT IT IS BECOMING CLEAR THAT THE WE 9 ARE MORE AND MORE VOTING AS A BLOC RATHER THAN AS INDIVIDUAL NATIONS. THIS MEANS THAT THE UK WHICH WOULD GENERALLY STRONGLY SUPPORT US IS BEING FORCED INTO A MORE WITHDRAWN POSITION IN DEFERENCE TO OTHER MEMBERS WE/9 WHO HAVE STRONG INTEREST IN PLACATING AFRO-ARABS. FRANCE, OF COURSE, IS IN THE FOREFRONT BUT ITALY ALSO SEEMS TO BE INCLINED NOT TO CROSS THE AFRO-ARABS. FOR EXAMPLE, AT MEETING OF GENEVA GROUP DURING RECENT EXTRAORDINARY GEN CONF. FRANCE FLATLY REFUSED TO GO ON RECORD AS OPPOSING A SILLY RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY ALGERIA WHICH WOULD HAVE THROWN WHOLE CONSENSUS ON VITAL BUDGET MATTERS OUT WINDOW. FRG HAS STRONG DESIRE OBTAIN GREATER SAY IN UNESCO AFFAIRS AND IS NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN MAKING ENEMIES AMONG LDC'S. FOR EXAMPLE, AT RECENT IOC (INTERNATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE) W. GERMANS LOBBIED HARD FOR ELECTION OF GERMAN AS PRESEIDENT. FRG MINISTER TO UNESCO TOLD US PERMDEL DECISION PUSH FOR PRESIDENCY HAD BEEN MADE IN BONN WHERE THERE WAS STRONG FEELING W. GERMANY MUST HEAD SOME PRESTIGIOUS UN COMMISSION. DEFEAT OF W.GERMAN BY AN AUSTRALIAN INCREASED FRG FRUSTRATIONS. THIS DESIRE OF FRG IS RUNNING HEAD ON INTO FLEXING OF MUSCLES OF LDC'S IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MORE SEATS ON UNESCO SPECIALIZED COMMISSIONS. POINT IS THAT AT TIME US BEING ISOLATED FROM FRO-ARABS WEST EUROPEANS FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN SEEM LESS AND LESS INCLINED STAND BY OUR SIDE IN TOUGH POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVING NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.

2. FURTHER, FACT THAT US NOW REDUCING CONTRIBUTION TO 25PERCENT, WHICH IS ROUGHLY EQUAL TO THAT ON WE 9, WEAKENS OUR POSITION. AS WE 9 BECOMES MORE SOLID THEY SEEM TO BE THINKING OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION NOT IN TERMS OF 9 VOTES IT BUYS BUT THAT THEY ARE MAKING EQUAL FINANCIAL INPUT US.

3. MOST URGENT PROBLEM FACING US IN UNESCO VIS-A-VIS EUROPE IS ADMISSION US AND CANADA TO UNESCO EUROPEAN REGION. AT PRESENT US AND CANADA BELONG TO NO REGION AS LATINS MADE IT CLEAR THEY WANTED LATINS ONLY REGION COMPRISING MEXICO, CENTRAL-SOUTH AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES. CANADA IS PARTICULARLY JUMPY SINCE THEY ARE NOT EAGER BE OVERWHELMED IN REGION CONSISTING ONLY OF CANADA AND US. UNESCO RULES REQUIRE EACH STATE BELONG TO A REGION SO POSSIBLE US AND CANADA WOULD END UP ALONG. THIS WOULD FORECLOSE ACTIVE US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROLE IN IMPORTANT MEETINGS IN FIELDS SCIENCE, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. CRUX OF MATTER IS TO GAIN UNIFIED WE SUPPORT FOR ENTRY US. FRANCE IS STRONGLY OPPOSED OUR ENTRY AND NORDIC STATES AT BEST LUKEWARM EAST EUROPEANS WOULD OF COURSE BE DELIGHTED TO SEE US OUT. FOR MORE COMPLETE ANALYSIS THIS COMPLEX ISSUE SEE OUR TEL 31727.

4. CONTINUING GENERAL ANALYSIS, POINTS MADE REFTEL ABOUT CHINA

ALSO PARTICULARLY APPLICABLE UNESCO. CHINESE VERY SELECTIVE ISSUES THEY CHOOSE TAKE LEADING ROLE. SEEM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SCIENCE AND EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION. THEY PLAYED MAJOR ROLE WITH LARGE DELEGATION IN RECENT UNISIST MEETING HELD UNESCO. IN CONTRAST, THEY PLAYED VIRTUALLY NO ROLE IN IOC MEETING WHICH WAS GOING ON IN ADJOINING SALLE. CLEAR CHINESE ALSO INTEND USE UNESCO AS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FORUM INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE AMONG LDC'S PARTICULARLY AFRICANS AND ARABS. CHINESE FREQUENTLY AND RATHER ELOQUENTLY SPEAK OF FACT THAT THEIR ANCIENT CULTURE WAS FOR MANY YEARS RIDICULED AND TREATED AS INFERIOR BY WESTERN MUCH YOUNGER AND LESS GRAND CIVILIZATION. CHINESE THEN STATE THAT OTHER GREAT ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS IN AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA HAVE BEEN TREATED IN SAME MANNER. IMPLICATION IS CLEAR THAT ON BASIS OF CULTURE CHINESE SEE THEMSELVES IN UNIQUE ROLE OF LEADER NON-WESTERN WORLD.

5. AS OTHER ASIANS, IMBROGLIO OVER CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM SPLIT VOTES. KEY HERE IN UNESCO SEEMS BE GENERALLY INEFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP ROLE PLAYED BY JAPAN. ON PLUS SIDE INDIA SEEMS BECOMING MUCH MORE AWARE NEED FOR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY -- AND MAY BE ALLY OF US ON BUDGET MATTERS. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ALSO IN BIND AS THEY NOT FULL MEMBERS ASIAN REGION UNESCO AND BOTH DESIRE BECOME FULL MEMBERS. PRESENTLY THEY WERE VOTED RIGHT TO SEND FULL PARTICIPATING DELEGATION TO ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AFTER STRONG EFFORT MADE BY NEW ZEALAND. HOWEVER, ASIAN DELEGATES HAVE EXPRESSED PRIVATELY TO US PERMDEL THAT THEY PERSONALLY NOT HAPPY WITH IDEA BECAUSE AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND NOT ETHNICALLY ASIAN AND BECAUSE OF OLD ANTI-ASIAN IMMIGRATION POLICIES. HOWEVER, THIS MAY BE ONLY PERSONAL ATTITUDE AND NOT REFLECT ULTIMATE INSTRUCTIONS RE VOTE.

6. FINALLY, MENTIONING LATIN AMERICANS, THEY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN UNESCO AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY IN DEBATES AT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS. THEY RARELY WILL GO AGAINST AFRO-ARAB BLOC ON ISSUES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTLY CONCERNING THOSE REGIONS. DOUBT WE COULD COUNT ON MANY VOTES HERE IN CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS ROOM FOR MANEUVER AND NOT A CLOSED SHOP. CA
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AFRICA. AS NEITHER PORTUGAL NOR SOUTH AFRICA A MEMBER OF UNESCO US IS COMPLETELY ALONE WHEN FORCED SPEAK ON ISSUES DIRECTLY CONCERNING THOSE COUNTRIES. THUS, IN UNESCO, INSTEAD THREE SURE VOTES PLUS SOME OF WEST EUROPEANS, US CAN ONLY COUNT ON ITSELF WHEN COMES TO CRUNCH, PARTICULARLY SINCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND COLONIALISM ALWAYS BIG UNESCO ISSUES. HOWEVER, POINT SHOULD BE MADE THAT THESE UNFORTUNATE TRENDS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN DISPROPORTIONATE WEIGHT IN TERMS US INTEREST, PARTICULARLY OVER LONG TERM. ON BALANCE US IS HIGHLY RESPECTED IN UNESCO AND MANY PLUSES OUR ACCOUNT -- MOST RECENT BEING PROMPT RATIFICATION US OF WORLD HERITAGE TRUST CONVENTION (US FIRST TO RATIFY) WHICH IS HIGH ON UNESCO PRIORITIES AND MUST SUPPORTED BY LDC'S. SO WE DO HAVE SOME IMPORTANT CREDITS OTHER THAN OUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION ON WHICH TO DRAW. ALTHOUGH INFLUENCE ON POLITICAL ISSUES, ESPECIALLY THOE RELATED COLONIALISM, BEING CHALLENGED, INPUT INTO PROGRAM IS STRONG AND APPRECIATED. VERY LIKELY NEXT DIRECTOR GENERAL WILL BE AFRICAN (M'BOW, SENEGAL) AND US CAN GAIN MANY CREDITS BY COOPERATING IN PROGRAMS OF A
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UNESCO HEADED BY AN AFRICAN. UNESCO WILL THEREFORE LIKELY BE FIRST MAJOR UN AGENCY WITH AFRICAN D.G. AND THIS FACT WILL HOPEFULLY INDUCE AFRO-ARABS PLAY A MORE RESPONSIBLE ROLE. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION UNESCO ACTIVITIES BY MANY HIGHLY QUALIFIED AMERICANS IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE CAN BE USED AS EXAMPLE CONVINCE LDC'S OUR SINCERITY WORK ON PROJECTS OF INTEREST TO THEM, AND ABILITY NOT LET PIQUE CAUSED BY LOSING POLITICAL VOTES HAMPER BASIC US POLICY COOPERATION. LOOKING DOWN LONG ROAD THIS CAN HAVE BENEFICIAL MULTIPLIER EFFECT LDC'S IN SOFTENING OTHERWISE HARD POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND PROVIDE MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR US INVESTMENT, SEARCH FOR RAW MATERIALS, SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.IRWIN

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